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Revealing Secrets Hit By Texas Congressmen

Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, March 8 — A number of Texas representatives are supporting Rep. George Mahon's demand that U. S. intelligence activities "be secret."

Mahon called on the administration and House leaders Thursday to "co-ordinate a course of action for the purpose of halting the rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort."

Mahon, from Lubbock, warned, "The present situation is outrageous and intolerable."

The representative said, "The administration has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

"Every day some high-ranking intelligence officer is quoted in the newspapers," Mahon said he was "tired of these demonstrations of bad judgment."

Rep. Wright Patman of Texas-

kana supported Mahon's demands. "I was very much impressed. This should have been said a long time ago. Too many officials have unwittingly been helping Khrushchev, whether they realize it or not. This criticism has gone beyond the stages of being constructive."

Rep. Jack Brooks of Beaumont commented, "In the free world's battle for survival you don't win by turning all your dominoes face up."

Rep. Graham Purcell of Wichita Falls said, "I feel somewhat uneasy about our classified information, for example, concerning the Bay of Pigs situation, being revealed. I think we should heed Mr. Mahon's advice."

Rep. Walter Rogers of Pampa concluded, "I agree — you can't very well play football and tell the other team your signals."

Rep. Jim Wright of Fort

Worth commented, "I have thought for some time that Congress ought to establish an oversight committee for intelligence operations. I am joining several other members in plans for a bill to create such a watchdog committee."

Rep. Bob Casey of Houston said he was not familiar with Mahon's remarks and therefore reserved comment.

Mahon in his blast at leaky security, said, "The American people are interested in our intelligence activities. They are interested in all phases of the workings of their government and their curiosities are aroused by the aura of mystery and adventure which surrounds the intelligence business."

"But we are not playing games. Our national survival depends upon our knowledge of our enemies' activities."

"The American people, the press and the officials of the executive and legislative branches of the government must stop making a most difficult task more difficult."

"There is room for plenary of discussion and criticism of our government without revealing sensitive intelligence information."

Mahon, who rarely speaks on the House floor, is considered one of the most influential members of the Texas Delegation and the House. Mahon also is among the few congressmen who handle the top secret Central Intelligence Agency budget.